Shutting down of the NTPC plants at Kayamkulam

867. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether news-item in 'The Hindu' dated the 2nd February, 2003 that 'There is a virtual break down in Kerala's power generation due to the close on the heels of reports on the likelihood of the NTPC plants at Kayamkulam being shutdown due to saline water intrusion and reservoirs of all the hydel projects in the State are drying up fast is in attention of competent authority;

(b) if so, action taken to avoid shut down of NTPC due to saline water intrusion and to avoid the power crises; and

(c) whether steps will be initiated to supply more power to Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Kayamkulam Power Plant (350 MW) of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is getting sweet water required for operation of the units from the Achenkovil river and the intake point of water is at Nalukettukavla. During the time of high salinity in the river water, the plant was run by consuming the water available in the raw water reservoir inside NTPC premises and therefore, there was no reduction in the generation of power.

(b) The matter was immediately brought to the attention of concerned authorities of Kerala Government by NTPC. A team of Engineers from the Kerala State Irrigation Department surveyed the water bodies to identify the possible sources of saline water intrusion and it was decided to arrange for construction of temporary bunds in some of the canals leading to intake of water for the NTPC plant. The construction of bunds in the small canals have already been completed, salinity of water at the intake point has come down and NTPC has started drawing water from the river.

(c) Besides power available from Kayamkulam Power Plant of NTPC, Kerala has a firm allocation of 521 MW in Central Generating Stations (CGS) in Southern region. It has also a firm allocation of 280 MW (14%) in Talcher STPS Stage-II (4x500 MW) of NTPC located in Orissa (Eastern Region) to be commissioned fully by 2004-05. In order

to augment availability of power to State, the following steps have been taken:

(i) 25% (100 MW approx.) allocation from unallocated quota in CGS in Southern Region.

(ii) Allocation of 100 MW from unallocated quota of NTPC stations in Eastern Region.

(iii) Entitlement of 100-200 MW infirm power during off-peak periods from Eastern Region.

(iv) Capacity addition of 2140 MW is planned in Central Sector in Southern region during Tenth Plan period in which Kerala will have entitlements.

Indian and foreign private sector companies for power generation in H.P.

868. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian and foreign private sector companies with whom agreements have been signed during the last five years for power generation in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, separately;

(b) its installed generation capacity; and

(c) the progress that have been achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) As per information available, in Himachal Pradesh, during the period in question, Implementation Agreements have been signed in respect of the 192 MW Allain Duhangan Hydro Electric Project (HEP) of M/s. Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mills and the 1000 MW Karcham Wangtoo HEP of M/s. Jaiprakash Industries Limited. In Punjab, Implementation Agreement as well as Power Purchase Agreement has been signed in respect of the 500 MW Goindwal Sahib Thermal Power Project of M/s. GVK Power Limited.

(c) The brief status of these projects, as available, is mentioned below:—

Allain Duhangan HEP—Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) has been accorded by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 20th August, 2002. Environment and Forest clearance has been accorded.